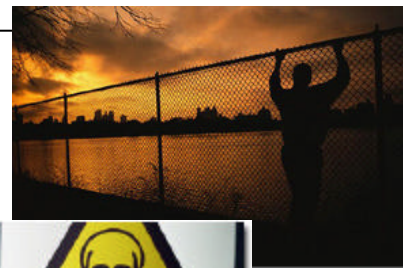




# Water System Vulnerability Assessment Update

October 2003 Number 2



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### Update Input

If you'd like to contribute anything regarding WSVAs for other USACHPPM project officers, just let us know. Maybe you've encountered a unique situation that no one else has when conducting a WSVAs or you've come across a great resource for security information. We'd all like to hear about it. If you're interested in contributing to this update contact Steve Clarke at the Water Supply Management Program (WSMP).

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### Addendum to EPA's Instructions on Submitting WSVAs and ERPs

The EPA recently released an addendum to their instructions on complying with the WSVAs and ERP submittal requirements outlined in EPA's January 2003 document, *"Instructions to Assist Community Water Systems in Complying with the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, EPA 810-B-02-001"* (this document is included in the WSVAs Assessor CD provided at the WSMP Workshop). The addendum provides clarifications and corrections to the original document as well as many frequently asked questions (FAQs) on submittal requirements. You can also download it using the following link (copy the link and paste into the address bar of your internet browser):

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/util-inst-final-add.pdf>.

The document is located at EPA's water infrastructure website:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/>.

### Security Clearances

As WSVAs project officers, we're all aware of the challenges faced when conducting a WSVAs. One issue in particular: security clearances of key installation personnel knowledgeable of the water system (i.e., water system supervisor, environmental personnel, etc.). Usually, the folks most involved and knowledgeable of the water system at the installation *do not* have SECRET clearances and are not available to view our final WSVAs reports.

We've developed a couple alternatives to help ensure key installation personnel have the necessary SECRET clearances to view the WSVAs final report. One alternative that we've implemented is revising the notification letter to include a short discussion on identifying key personnel for reviewing the WSVAs final SECRET report (a notification template is included in the WSVAs Assessor CD). However, in some cases this may not be early enough. Interim SECRET clearances can take several weeks to months. Another alternative is to discuss this issue with the installation point-of-contact (POC) as soon as you find out you're the project officer. For example, the Fort Riley WSVAs is currently scheduled for an on-site assessment in February 2004. We've already contacted the installation POC via email and given them a "heads-up" on this and to take appropriate action.

Ensuring key installation personnel have appropriate SECRET clearances early on will help in providing an effective WSVAs as well as being able to incorporate WSVAs findings into the Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

### Handling On-site Data

On a related note, be sure to treat data gathered on-site during a WSVAs as FOUO. In other words make a reasonable effort to control the data you gather – don't leave it unattended in an unsecure area, lock-it up when it's not with you, etc. The following link is to an article in the Tampa Tribune about data stolen from a contractor conducting a VA.

<http://news.tbo.com/news/MGAL96PSSLD.html>